



SR0957

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is any infection caused by  
3 the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*, or meningococcus;  
4 although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this bacteria with no  
5 signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis*  
6 bacteria can cause illness; and

7           WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is spread from person to  
8 person via the exchange of the bacteria through respiratory and  
9 throat secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

10           WHEREAS, There are approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of  
11 meningococcal disease that occur in the United States each  
12 year; 10-15% of infected individuals will die, while 11-19% of  
13 those who live will suffer from serious morbidity, including  
14 loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

15           WHEREAS, Infants under one year of age and young adults  
16 between the ages of 16 and 21 are most commonly impacted by  
17 this disease; and

18           WHEREAS, There are different strains or serogroups of  
19 *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting  
20 for most meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

1           WHEREAS, There have been several recent outbreaks of  
2 serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses, with  
3 some cases resulting in death; and

4           WHEREAS, Vaccines are available to prevent meningococcal  
5 disease; different vaccines provide coverage against certain  
6 specific serogroups of the disease; and

7           WHEREAS, While there are vaccines that help provide  
8 protection against all 3 serogroups (B, C, and Y) commonly seen  
9 in the United States, only vaccination for serogroups A, C, W,  
10 and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease  
11 Control and Prevention; and

12           WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's  
13 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that  
14 decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults 16 through  
15 23 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease  
16 should be made at the individual level with health care  
17 providers; and

18           WHEREAS, It is critical that students, parents, educators,  
19 and health care providers understand the dangers of meningitis  
20 B and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent disease  
21 resulting from this serogroup; and

1           WHEREAS, The recent incidences of meningococcal disease  
2 has served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play  
3 in helping to prevent this devastating illness; therefore, be  
4 it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge all private and  
7 public high schools, colleges, and universities in the State of  
8 Illinois to provide information to all students and parents  
9 about meningococcal disease, explaining the different disease  
10 serogroups, symptoms, risks, and treatments; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That such information should also include a  
12 notice of availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all  
13 meningococcal vaccines receiving a recommendation from the  
14 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including  
15 Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific  
16 information as to those persons at higher risk for the disease;  
17 and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That we urge each private and public high school,  
19 college, and university in the State to recommend that current  
20 and entering students receive meningococcal vaccines in  
21 accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization  
22 Practices guidelines; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be made  
2 available to all private and public high schools, colleges, and  
3 universities in the State.